Proposals of potable water schemes from Uttaranchal

† 3115. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have received some proposals regarding potable water schemes from Uttaranchal for granting sanction/approval;

(b) whether Gangolihat and Manila Village group potable water schemes are also included in these proposals; and

(c) if so, when these proposals were received and the reasons for delay in approving them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Proposals for Gangolihat and Manila Village group potable water schemes were received in the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply on 24th March, 2005 and 2nd May, 2005 respectively. Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Government of India supports the efforts of the States by extending financial and technical assistance under a Centrally sponsored programme, namely the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The funds under ARWSP are released as per a laid down criterion, which takes into account rural population, geo-hydrological conditions, proportionate coverage of habitations with the stipulated level of drinking water supply and water quality situation in the State. The State Governments are empowered to plan, sanction, implement and maintain rural water supply schemes from the funds provided under ARWSP, and such proposals do not require clearance from the Central level. Therefore, the proposals received from Government of Uttaranchal were returned to the State Government for appropriate action.

BPL in U.P.

† 3116. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people living below the poverty line in Uttar Pradesh at present alongwith the number of such people in the whole country;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have fixed any target in the last two years that this much people will be uplifted above the poverty line; and

(c) the achievements made during last two years separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Planning Commission estimates poverty at National and State level from the large sample survey on 'Household Consumer Expenditure' conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. According to the latest survey conducted in 1999-2000 (55th Round), the number of persons living below the poverty line, for the State of Uttar Pradesh were 53 million, of which 41.2 million were in rural areas and 11.8 million were in urban areas, and at All India level, there were 260.2 million persons estimated to be living below the poverty line of which 193.2 million were in rural areas and 67.0 million were in urban areas.

(b) and (c) At the All India level, the Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07) has set a target for reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012. There is no such target set for the State of Uttar Pradesh. An assessment of the performance in the Tenth Plan period will be possible only when the results of the 61st Round for the year 2004-05 are received from the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

Scarcity of drinking water in Gujarat

3117. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute crisis in North and Central Gujarat and several districts of Saurashtra because of scarcity for drinking water; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Based on the Comprehensive Action Plan, 1999 and the subsequent coverage reported